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Trends. Altruism as Egoism in International Trade Policy: Some Strange Bedfellows

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Much has been made about the increasing cooperation between political advocates of environmentalism and domestic trade unionism. In the not so distant past, these two entities would be adversaries--the former asserting the inhumanity of the latter, the latter the lack of realism of the former. Have both sides finally come to a meeting of the minds about a global trade that fosters economic growth and benign social consequences for the wretched of the earth?

Probably not. The environmentalists largely seem to be continuing to seek goals that are the products of mirror imaging their own conceptions of human, labor, and environmental rights. The relationship of convenience with the unionists seems largely to increase the numbers that can be apocryphally stated to support the fruits of mirror imaging and a narcissistic, even solipsistic, view of the world that is distorted by a context of "We Are the World." On the other hand, the unionists seem to be appealing for the fruits of mirror imaging because such fruits are most unlikely to be reaped--and hopefully in an internal interregnum, even the most minute reduction in the jobs of domestic union members is impeded.

Like too many marriages in a postmodern world, our betrothed will soon go their separate ways. (See Kahn, J., & Greenhouse, S. (April 12, 2000). Unions to hit the street in Washington. *The New York Times*, p. A12; Lindley, N. R., Giordano, P. J., & Hammer, E. D. (1999). Codependency: Predictors and psychometric Issues. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 55, 59-64; Loring, S., & Cowan, G. (1997). Codependency: An interpersonal phenomenon. *Sex Roles*, 36, 115-123; Springer, C. A., Britt, T. W., & Schlenker, B. R. (1998). Codependency: Clarifying the construct. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 20, 141-158; Wright, . H., & Wright, K. (1999). The two faces of codependent relating: A research-based perspective. *Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal*, 21, 527-543.) (Keywords: Altruism, Environmentalism, Human Rights, International Trade, Labor Rights.)